

## INVESTIGATION OF FRED READ'S CONDUCT WANTED

Capt. Stuart Said to Have Advised Treasury Department of Alleged Attempt to Influence Grand Jury.

NO TRUTH IN CHARGE, SAYS NEW COLLECTOR

When He Mentioned Morewitz Case to Two Newport News Men, Mr. Read Declares, He Did Not Know They Were on Grand Jury—Matter Was Brought to Court's Attention, But No Indictment Was Returned.

Collector of Customs J. E. B. Stuart, according to reports that seem to be authentic, has written a letter to the treasury department asking for an investigation of the charge that Fred Read, the newly appointed collector at this port who is now awaiting his commission from Washington, approached and attempted to influence members of the United States grand jury at Norfolk which last week indicted Harry A. Morewitz, a young merchant of this city, on the charge of buying goods which he knew had been smuggled into this country. Collector Stuart would not discuss the matter last night, but it is reported that secret service men are coming here from Washington to investigate the affair.

Fred Read, late last night, denied the charge. He said that he did speak to two Newport News men on the grand jury—Lane Lacy and John P. Fraley—about the Morewitz case, but that at the time he did not know that they were members of the jury. He went on to say that the matter of his talking to the jurors was brought to the attention of the grand jury and that body refused to indict him.

Leaked Out Yesterday.

Captain Stuart is said to have written the letter Monday evening, but the report that such a communication had been sent to the treasury department did not come out until yesterday morning and it was not until yesterday afternoon that the fact that the grand jury had on last Thursday considered the matter of indicting the newly named collector became known here.

Lane Lacy, it is said, reported the matter to the grand jury Thursday morning after the jurors had assembled to return the indictment against Morewitz. All of the evidence in the case was heard by the jury Wednesday, but the matter of returning the indictment was deferred until Thursday morning. Three of the twenty-one jurors were excused Wednesday night by Judge Waddill and among that number was J. P. Holston, of this city. Mr. Holston said last night that Mr. Read did not speak to him about the Morewitz case or any other matter.

Created Sensation.

When Mr. Lacy told the members of the jury that he had been approached in the Morewitz matter as is said to have created something of a sensation in the jury room. Several of the jurors spoke about the matter and finally it was decided to report the affair to Judge Waddill. Accordingly, the foreman of the jury, whose name could not be ascertained last night, informed the judge.

District Attorney L. L. Lewis was told of the affair by Judge Waddill and he is said to have immediately examined into the law to ascertain whether or not the offense was indictable. He reported to the court that he thought it was, and Judge Waddill, it is said, instructed the grand jury to go to the bottom of the matter.

Some Voted to Indict.

District Attorney Lewis went into the grand jury room and is said to have remained there throughout the consideration of the matter by the jurors. It is said that there was a lively discussion of the question of returning an indictment, some of the jurors speaking in favor of it and some against it. The vote finally was taken and six or seven of the jurors are reported to have voted for an indictment. Twelve of the jurors' votes were necessary for an indictment and "not a true bill" was returned.

Collector Stuart was a witness before the grand jury in the Morewitz case and also before the trial jury which freed Morewitz Monday. It is understood that Captain Stuart heard of what transpired in the grand jury room relative to Mr. Read and that it was upon that information that he based the letter which he is said to

have written to the treasury department.

Was Naturally Interested.

When told last night of the report that the collector had officially notified the treasury department of the affair, Fred Read emphatically denied the charge. He declared that he went to Norfolk with Capt. J. E. Williams, the immigration inspector at this port, and that Captain Williams was with him during most of the time they were in Norfolk. He said that he knew Morewitz well and was naturally interested to know what the grand jury had done in his case.

He said that he saw a number of Newport News people around the federal building and that he happened to say to Lane Lacy, "I hope Little Morewitz gets out of his trouble." Mr. Lacy then told him he had been summoned to serve on the grand jury which was to consider Morewitz's case and that he expected to be called. I told him that I did not know that, and was sorry that I spoke about it," continued Mr. Read.

In an Incidental Way.

Later Mr. Read spoke to Mr. Fraley, saying about the same thing that he said to Mr. Lacy, he says. At that time, Mr. Read says, he thought the jury had finished its work. Mr. Read declared that he spoke to both men only in an incidental way and that he made absolutely no effort to intimidate or influence them in any way. "Why you know that I have too much sense to attempt to influence members of a United States grand jury in any case," continued the newly named collector.

Mr. Read went on to say that the matter was brought to the attention of the grand jury and that body "refused to entertain it." He said that the grand jury was the proper body to consider the matter, and that after it had cleared him of any wrong intent he thought the matter should end there.

When first told of the report that Captain Stuart had written the letter to the treasury department, Mr. Read said: "That was very nice of him, wasn't it?" He then went on to make his statement.

Appointed Two Weeks Ago.

Mr. Read was appointed collector of customs here to succeed Captain Stuart on November 5, and the announcement of the appointment came from Washington on November 10, two days after the congressional election. Mr. Read executed a bond of \$50,000 with the treasury department last week and is now awaiting his commission from the port of Newport News. Until he receives that commission Captain Stuart will continue as the collector.

Cotton Men Meet.

(By Associated Press.)

ATLANTA, GA., Nov. 22.—More than 200 delegates, representing all of the cotton growing states, gathered in convention here today to discuss but one subject: "War on the Boll Weevil." The delegates were welcomed by Governor Joseph M. Brown and Mayor Robert F. Maddox.

## ASSOCIATION ADJOURNS

Baptist Convention at Roanoke Comes to End.

MEET NEXT IN NORFOLK

Dr. W. E. Hatcher is Again Elected

President of the State Orphanage at Salem—Reports on Foreign Missions and Education Read.

(By Associated Press.)

ROANOKE, VA., Nov. 22.—The eighty-seventh annual session of the Virginia State Baptist Association, which met here last Friday, adjourned tonight to meet next year in Freemason Street church at Norfolk, Va.

Among the reports read and talked on today were those on foreign missions, education and the ministers' relief fund. The latter showed the income from all sources during the year to be \$5,982 and disbursements of \$5,375. The association re-elected Dr. W. E. Hatcher president of the state orphanage at Salem.

MADE JOHN BROWN'S COFFIN.

Last of Those Taking Part in Famous Execution Passes Away.

(By Associated Press.)

CHARLESTOWN, W. VA., Nov. 22.—The last of those who took part in the execution of John Brown, died here early today at the age of 84. He was Louis P. Starry, the undertaker who made the coffin in which Brown's body was placed.

Mr. Starry rode in the wagon with Brown from the jail to the scaffold and delivered the body afterwards at Harper's Ferry to Mrs. Brown and Dr. McKim. Mr. Starry lived here all his life.

Vote For Good Roads.

(By Associated Press.)

ROANOKE, VA., Nov. 22.—At a special election held today in Wise county, this state, to vote on proposed good roads bond issue of \$700,000, the proposition was overwhelmingly voted for by the majority in favor of it being \$200,000.

## TAFT MAKES VISIT TO WILLIAMSBURG

President Delivers Little Speech from Pulpit in the Historic Church.

ARRIVES AT OLD POINT; IS GUESTS OF RICHMOND

Chief Executive Will Spend Twenty-four Hours in Old Confederate Capital—Will Address Virginia Educational Conference This Afternoon and Reach Washington Tonight.

(By Associated Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 22.—Landing from the armored cruiser Tennessee at Fort Monroe this afternoon, after a flying visit to the isthmus of Panama, President Taft came to Richmond tonight to be the guest of the citizens of the old Confederate capital for 24 hours.

Mr. Taft dined at the Westmoreland Club and later held an informal reception at the Commonwealth Club.

He is stopping tonight at the Jefferson Hotel. Tomorrow the President will breakfast with Governor Mann at the executive mansion, will be entertained at luncheon and will speak in the afternoon to the Virginia Educational conference. The President will reach Washington at 8:35 o'clock tomorrow night.

Stops at Williamsburg.

On his way to Richmond this afternoon, Mr. Taft stopped for half an hour at Williamsburg to visit the old William & Mary College and the Bruton parish church which dates back to 1632. From the pulpit of the historic church he made a little speech in which he declared that the making of the constitution and the making of the nation were indelibly linked with the men who lived in Williamsburg and other parts of Virginia.

"The men who lived in Williamsburg and all through Virginia," said the President, "fought the early fights with the old governors, that those of us in Ohio hardly knew were fought, and yet were the real bases for the successful struggles that came later."

Charles P. Taft, the President's brother who accompanied him to Panama, left the party here and continued on to his home in Cincinnati.

Salute at Fort Monroe.

The cruiser Tennessee, conveyed by the Montana, passed in the Virginia capes shortly before 9 o'clock this morning and came to anchor off the government dock at Fort Monroe, a little more than two hours later. As the big gray cruisers steamed slowly by the fortress, a presidential salute of 21 guns boomed from cannon on the ramparts. The President remained aboard the Tennessee until after three o'clock in the afternoon. Both the Tennessee and the Montana saluted Mr. Taft as he was piped over the side and his blue ensign fluttered down from the main truck of the flagship where, for the past five days it had flown as the symbol of the highest executive authority of the United States.

Landing at Fort Monroe, the President found eight companies of coast artillery lined up in dress parade to greet him, while the saluting cannon roared another tribute from across the ancient moat surrounding the fortress.

Meets "Deacon" at Old Point.

The blue flag of the sea was replaced by the army's presidential flag of red as the artillerymen marched in escort of the President from the dock to the railway station. A company of Richmond citizens went to Fort Monroe to meet the President. One of the first the President greeted was Major J. C. Hemphill, formerly of Charleston, but now of Richmond.

"Deacon," said the President to the veteran editor, "Charleston does not seem the same without you."

The "deacon" replied that the Richmond folks were just like Charlestonians, "only a little more so."

Others in the Richmond party were Mayor Richardson, Lieutenant Governor Ellison, Ex-Governor A. J. Montague, George W. Stevens, president of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway; H. W. Wood, president, and W. T. Dabney, secretary of the chamber of commerce; Colonel Barton H. Grundy, Epps Hutton, Jr.; William H. White, president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad, and Judge R. R. Prentiss.

Famous Horse Sells Cheap.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—On a bid of \$1,100, The Director General, a famous stallion, was sold today at the second day's session of the Old Glory horse sale at Madison Square Garden.

The low price brought was the sensation of the day. Only a few years ago The Director General was bought for the Claiborne Farms of Kentucky for \$12,000, and it had been expected that he would bring at least \$10,000. Frank McClellan, of Dayton, O., was the successful bidder.

## BIDS CHILDREN FAREWELL; LEAVES FOR DEATH CHAIR

Norfolk Wife Murderer Taken to Richmond To Be Executed December 8.

NORFOLK, VA., Nov. 22.—Guards arrived from Richmond today to take to the penitentiary John J. Smyth, the bartender who killed his wife and little girl some time ago, the latter being shot while endeavoring to save her mother. Unless the governor extends the clemency that has been asked Smyth will be electrocuted December 8.

He was given opportunity yesterday to see for the last time his three surviving children. The meeting occurred in the private office of Sheriff Lawler, with the latter present. The father fondled his children the entire time he was with them. The children, too, sobbed pitifully though, so far as is known, ignorant of the fate that awaited the father. Smyth told the children to always remember their mother and to live for one another. He again told the 8-year-old boy to always write to his sisters and to aid them and care for them when he grew to be a big boy. Up to this time Smyth, who is a Catholic in religious faith, has not gone to confession, though he has been visited by a priest. Smyth's two daughters will be cared for at St. Mary's orphan asylum, where they have been since their mother and elder sister were killed. Little Willie Smyth will be sent to a Catholic orphanage in Roanoke.

## HOUSE COLLAPSES AND HIS FAMILY IS BURIED

Cleveland Tailor's Wife and Two Children are Crushed to Death.

(By Associated Press.)

CLEVELAND, O., Nov. 22.—The wife of Simon Frutkin, tailor, his two small children and a servant were crushed to death by the collapse of a new concrete mercantile building at Lorain avenue and West Thirtieth street tonight. An explosion of unknown origin is believed to have caused the disaster.

Frutkin was badly injured. A baby was saved by the strength of a bureau under which it had rolled and which supported a weight of many tons until rescuers found the little one, crawling and unharmed. Frutkin's little tailor shop stood next to the big concrete structure. He was at work in the front room, while Mrs. Frutkin, with the children, was asleep in a bed room in the rear. There came from the building next door a tremendous crash; the huge wall that overhung their fragile home groaned and then settled to the earth, burying the tailor's home and his shop beneath it.

The new building, which was wholly destroyed, was being erected by a large furniture concern, to replace one destroyed by fire five months ago. It had not yet been occupied.

Furniture, which was stored in a completed portion of the building, was found a block away.

## INDIAN CONTRIBUTES TO TAFT'S BREAKFAST

President Will Be Treated To Special Virginia Dishes at Governor's Mansion This Morning.

(By Associated Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 22.—G. M. Cook, chief of the Pamunkey tribe of Indians, brought to Governor Mann today the annual tribute the Pamunkeys are pleased to pay to the governor of Virginia. The tribute this time consisted of partridges and wild ducks. The Indian said that they had told him the great father in Washington would pay a visit to Richmond and would breakfast tomorrow with the little father here.

The game, he thought, therefore would be the correct thing at this juncture. His gift, with other things, will be served at the presidential breakfast at the gubernatorial mansion and another delicacy that will be offered to tempt the appetite of Mr. Taft will be barbecued rabbit, a Virginia rarity.

VIRGINIA EDUCATORS MEET.

Annual Conference Opens Session at Richmond.

(By Associated Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 22.—The Virginia State Educational Conference of 1910 began here this afternoon with the opening meeting of the annual convention of the State Teachers' Association. The attendance promises to be large.

The members of the conference and citizens generally will be addressed by President Taft tomorrow afternoon in the city auditorium.

Drainage Association in Session.

(By Associated Press.)

WILMINGTON, N. C., Nov. 22.—With more than 100 delegates in attendance, the third annual convention of the State Drainage Association, having for its object the promotion of the drainage of swamps and other lands in North Carolina, met here today. President Joseph A. Brown, of Chadbourne, N. C., presiding.

## BELIEVE REIGN OF DIAZ NEAR AT END

Situation in Mexico Becomes More Serious Than Has Been for Several Years.

REBELS ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE UPPERHAND

Fighting Between the Government Forces and Revolutionists Continues and Many Are Killed On Both Sides—Interior of Republic is Seething With Rebellious Spirit.

PLOT TO ASSASSINATE

OFFICIALS IS UNEARTHED

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 22.—Documents found in the house of a revolutionary are said to have revealed a conspiracy for the wholesale assassination of prominent government officials, including foreign Minister Creel, Vice-President Corral and other prominent Mexicans, among them Editor Spindola, owner of El Imparcial.

Miguel S. Macedor, sub-secretary of the government, was also listed for death. President Diaz was to be taken, but his life was spared because of his past services to the country. The bodies of those killed were to be suspended from electric light wires in the streets. The building of El Imparcial was to have been destroyed with dynamite.

(By Associated Press.)

EAGLE PASS, TEXAS, Nov. 22.—A high officer, who, by virtue of his position, is in close touch with the revolutionary movement in Mexico, tonight said that fighting was going on in Cuernavaca, a large and prosperous city just below Mexico. That is the home of Don Carranque, brother of the candidate for governor of Coahuila, in opposition to the administration candidate. It is a stronghold of the revolutionists.

This man, whose information cannot be questioned, but whose position prohibits publication of his name, said the situation in Mexico is now more serious than at any other time during the last few years. He declared the excitement on the border was nothing compared to what it would be if all were known of the situation in the interior. He said that officers and citizens of Ciudad Perfirio Diaz were expecting the very worst at any time.

Citizens Are Armed.

They were scouring the surrounding country, not for revolutionists, but for their friends and relatives and bringing them into the city, some for protection, but more for the purpose of arming and assisting in the defense of Ciudad Perfirio Diaz. Local merchants and citizens generally were armed and used as patrols. The town was under absolute military control and all communication with this side was prohibited after dark.

The passenger train from the south, which is supposed to have left Torreon yesterday afternoon, has not arrived in Diaz, though it was due there at 11 o'clock this morning. Railroad officers say they do not know where the train is. Residents of Eagle Pass, who have relatives in Torreon and other points down the Mexican line, have not been able to get word from them for three days.

Troop L. Third United States cavalry, under command of Lieutenant Bristol, arrived in Eagle Pass tonight and began unloading.

Reign of Diaz Over.

A high Mexican officer today said that it was his opinion that the Diaz reign was over. In their efforts to procure more help in Ciudad Perfirio Diaz one American in business there was required to report for duty and help patrol. Upon explaining that he was not a citizen of Mexico the request was withdrawn.

Despite all the efforts made to capture revolutionists all escaped except a Mexican or two, occasionally lodged in jail.

Another Mexican troop has just been ordered to Cuatro Ciénegas.

West Livaudais, a New Orleans business man who reached here from Torreon, confirmed the report of a clash between federal soldiers and revolutionists. The government forces apparently were beaten and the rebels invaded Gomez Palacia and Lerdo. When he left Torreon the rebels had not advanced on that town but were momentarily expected.

"The rebels at 9 o'clock, Monday morning," said Livaudais, "shot down the police at Gomez Palacia. The soldiers were forced to fall back. When I left Torreon a large force

from there had been sent to re-take the town. Torreon is practically under martial law and everything is shut tight."

Americans are in no danger, said Mr. Livaudais, and foreign investments will be protected.

Situated at Texas Border.

LAREDO, TEXAS, Nov. 22.—Everything is quiet and tranquil in the extreme in this city, notwithstanding an undercurrent of intense interest in the possible outcome of the situation in Mexico, which is now in the acute stage of a struggle between the government and anti-government forces at various points throughout the republic. So far as local conditions are concerned there is very little fear of an outbreak of any kind. The United States government has an increased force here and the State Rangers are also on the ground in spite of the general belief that their services will not be needed. Sheriff Amador Sanchez, of Webb county, expressed great surprise today, when the State Rangers appeared upon the scene.

He gave it as his opinion that his own forces were adequate to cope with any disturbance that might arise in this county.

Tourists Stop at Border.

One effect of the rumors of overt acts committed by the revolutionists at points throughout the republic, is to prevent many persons who are en route to Mexico from crossing the border. Laredo hotels and boarding houses are now filled with people who had started to Mexico from all parts of the United States, but who, on reaching the frontier and hearing the alarming reports which have been in circulation, have considered it desirable to wait the time when conditions are more settled before resuming their journey.

Several Killed in Battle.

Reports which were current last night of fighting in Gomez Palacio and Torreon, Mexico, are in part confirmed by Mexican officials, and army officers stationed in Nuevo Laredo. It is admitted that in battles between the insurrectionists and the Mexican troops at both places several deaths resulted, the loss of life being evenly divided on both sides. It is generally understood that the government forces succeeded in quelling the disturbances at both places.

Reports current yesterday were to the effect that Torreon had fallen into the hands of the revolutionists. This is denied by army officers in Nuevo Laredo who claim to be in touch with the situation.

The army officers admit that the most bitter struggle occurred at Gomez Palacio, which is only four miles north of Torreon, in what is known as the famous Laguna cotton district. At Gomez Palacio it is acknowledged several deaths occurred on both sides.

25 Mile Line of Troops.

It can be stated, on what is considered good authority, that the Mexican

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

## ONE STATE REPUBLICAN

Kansas Sends Only Solid Delegation to Congress.

COLOR OF THE NEXT HOUSE

All Southern Commonwealths and

One Northern State Will Have Solid

Democratic Bodies—Majority Over

Republicans Will be 63.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.—The Democratic representation in the next house will be 227, as against 163 Republicans and one Socialist, according to the roster of the house published today. These figures give the Democrats a majority of 63 and a plurality of 64.

According to this publication, Kansas is the only state of size which has a solid Republican delegation. A number, however, contain only one Democrat, among these thus included being Iowa, Minnesota, California and Wisconsin.

All the Southern states have solid Democratic delegations except Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Maryland and Virginia each have one Republican, while Tennessee and Kentucky each have two members of that party. Colorado is the only Northern state represented entirely by Democrats, but Indiana, possessing a much larger representation, possess close upon her heels with twelve Democrats out of 13 members.

Illinois has eleven Democrats in her membership of 25, Massachusetts 4 out of 14, Michigan 2 out of 12, New Jersey 7 out of 16, New York 22 out of 37, Ohio 16 out of 28, and Pennsylvania 9 out of 22. Missouri's delegation consists of 13 Democrats and three Republicans.

The Nebraska delegation is evenly divided, three and three, as Maine's, two and two; Oklahoma has two Republicans and three Democrats; Washington is represented by three Republicans. All of the states having one representative only are Republican.

## DR. CRIPPEN PAYS PENALTY FOR CRIME

American Wife-Murderer Dies on the Gallows in London.

GLOOMY FOG HANGS OVER THE GREAT CITY

Condemned Man Spends Half Hour With Ethel Leneve, Under Eyes of Officers, on Last Day—Sketch of Man Whose Sensational Crime and Flight Attracted World's Attention.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Nov. 23.—9:02 A. M. (4:02 A. M. Eastern Time).—Crippen hanged.

Gloom Hangs Over City.

LONDON, Nov. 23.—8:30 A. M. (3:30 A. M. Eastern Time).—The morning of the day set for Dr. Crippen's execution afforded the gloomiest possible setting.

A dense fog overhung the city and at 8:30 o'clock the official expectation was that the hanging would take place about 9 o'clock.

The fog enveloped completely the walls of the prison, where small groups of loungers of the lower class, including many women, slouched silently, awaiting tidings from the hangman.

Sketch of His Career.

The execution of Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen in London today completed the criminal records of one of the most sensational of recent murder cases. The brutality of the crime committed by a man who had been known as of a gentle and kindly nature, the murderer's spectacular flight to his native land and the fact that the case against the doctor was purely circumstantial combined to make the tragedy of absorbing interest not only in England where the murder was done, but as well in America, where both Crippen and his wife were born.

Crippen, slight in figure, was just past fifty years of age. He was born in Michigan and after studying medicine practiced in the United States and Canada. In 1906 he married Cora Mackamotski of Brooklyn a vaudeville actress whose stage name was Belle Elmore. They removed to London where the doctor engaged in dental manufacture. Soon there was domestic infelicity due Crippen alleged to the attentions his wife received and Canada. In 1906 he married Cora Leneve a prepossessing woman now about 27 years of age entered Crippen's employ as a typist. She sympathized with the doctor and the two fell in love. Meantime Crippen and his wife were estranged.

Disappearance of Wife.

Nearly a year ago Miss Leneve, feeling her position keenly became impatient with the situation. About the same time the doctor was in need of money. Mrs. Crippen disappeared suddenly last February. Her husband inserted a death notice in the papers saying that she had succumbed to an illness while visiting in California. Actress friends of Mrs. Crippen persuaded the Scotland Yard to make an investigation and the police officials interviewed Crippen on July 12. He threw the police off the scent but on the following day fled from London in company with Miss Leneve who was disguised as a boy. Subsequently their presence on board the steamer Marmora was made known to Scotland Yard, through wireless messages and as the Montrose was approaching the harbor of Quebec Crippen and Miss Leneve were arrested. This was on July 31.

In the meantime the police had visited the Crippen home in Hildford Crescent and in the cellar unearthed parts of a woman's body. The medical experts who examined these parts were never able anatomically to prove that they were from the body of Belle Elmore. Nevertheless the jury that heard the Crippen case were satisfied that they were.

Crippen Indicted.

Crippen was indicted and convicted of the murder of his wife the evidence including testimony that he had bought and administered poison after which he dismembered the body. He was sentenced to be hanged on Nov. 8, but secured a stay of execution until today. An appeal on his behalf was denied by the Criminal Court of Appeals and a petition for a reprieve was rejected by Home Secretary Churchill.

Miss Leneve was indicted and charged as an accessory after the fact, but was acquitted.

Miss Leneve's Farewell Visit.

LONDON, Nov. 22.—All preparations have been made for the hanging of Dr. Hawley H. Crippen tomorrow morning within the gloomy walls

(Continued on Third Page.)